



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Virginia Employment Commission

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### **Virginia's Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims**

**— Seasonally unadjusted weekly initial unemployment insurance claims fell by nearly a third from the previous filing week, remaining at near historic lows during that period—**

**RICHMOND—The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) announced that the number of continued claims rose, remaining at pre-pandemic levels during the most recent filing week.**

For the filing week ending January 22, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 1,940. The latest claims figure was a decrease of 909 claimants from the previous week. Over half of initial claims that had a self-reported industry were in construction, administrative and waste services, accommodation and food service, and retail trade. Eligibility for benefits is determined on a weekly basis, and so not all weekly claims filed result in a benefit payment. This is because the initial claims numbers represent claim applications; claims are then reviewed for eligibility and legitimacy.

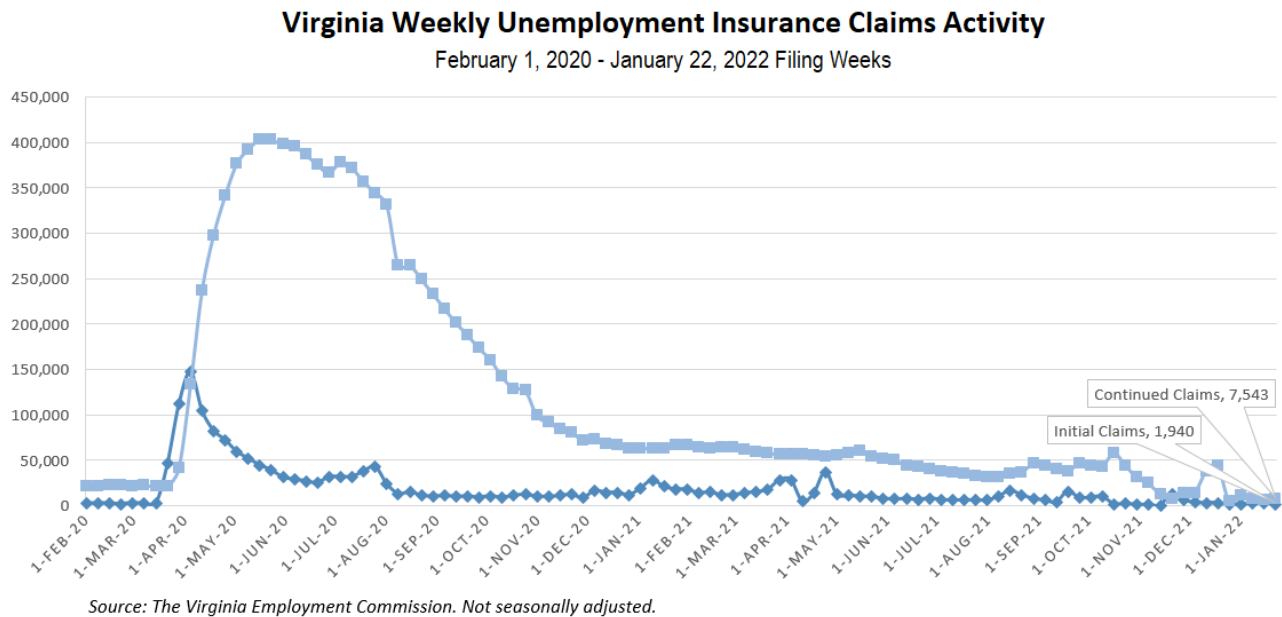
For the most recent filing week, continued weeks claimed totaled 7,543, which was an increase of 484 claims from the previous week and 89% lower than the 67,298 continued claims from the comparable week last year. The continued claims total is mainly comprised of those recent initial claimants who continued to file for unemployment insurance benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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VRC/TDD VA Relay 711  
Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

For additional information on who is claiming unemployment insurance in Virginia, access the VEC's [U.I. claims data dashboard](https://www.vec.virginia.gov/ui-claims-dashboard) (<https://www.vec.virginia.gov/ui-claims-dashboard>) that is updated no later than the following Monday after the weekly claims press release.



In the week ending January 22, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 260,000, a decrease of 30,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 4,000 from 286,000 to 290,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 267,573 in the week ending January 22, a decrease of 73,357 (or -21.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 840,705 initial claims in the comparable week in 2021. Looking at preliminary data, most states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Pennsylvania's preliminary weekly change (-8,060) was the largest decrease. New York's preliminary weekly change (-5,969) was the second largest decrease. New Jersey's preliminary weekly change (-4,995) was the third largest decrease. Texas's weekly change (-4,844) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia's preliminary weekly change (-694) was the 25th largest decrease.

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Continued Unemployment Insurance Claimants by County and City  
Week Ending January 22, 2022

